

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 20 further comprising extruding the central portions of the bows in an aluminum extrusion process.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the injecting steps further include molding a plurality of fastener bosses, reinforcing ribs and pivot pin retainers on the front rail portion, the plurality of side rails, and the plurality of links.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the molding step further comprises molding a rear rail and at least one pressure link.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the side rails include a center rail and a rear rail.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the links include a scissor link, control link, pivot link, and a pressure link.
8. (Withdrawn) A top stack linkage for a convertible top for a vehicle having a windshield header, the top stack linkage comprising:
 - a one bow that is selectively secured to the windshield header, the one bow being integrally molded to include right and left front rails;
 - right and left center rails pivotally connected to the right and left front rails, respectively;
 - right and left rear rails pivotally connected to the right and left center rails, respectively;

right and left pivot links pivotally connected to the right and left center rails and the right and left rear rails on right and left triple pivot pins;

right and left control links pivotally connected to the right and left front rails and to the right and left triple pivot pins, respectively;

a two bow extends between and is attached to the right and left center rails, and a three bow and a four bow extends between and are attached to the right and left pivot links.

9. (Withdrawn) The top stack linkage of claim 8 further comprising a five bow extending between and attached to the right and left pivot links by right and left pressure links, respectively.

10. (Withdrawn) The top stack linkage of claim further comprising right and left cylinders connected between the right and left center rails and the right and left control links, wherein the cylinders exert a biasing force on the control links to lift the one bow off of the windshield header when the top stack is initially retracted.

11. (Withdrawn) A convertible top for a vehicle having a passenger compartment, comprising:

a top stack linkage having a right side and a left side;

a cover secured to the top stack linkage and spanning between the right side and the left side to enclose the passenger compartment of the vehicle;

the right and left sides of the top stack linkage each having a pivot link that is pivotally connected to two different bows, each pivot link being pivotally connected to one of the sides of the top stack linkage.

12. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 11 wherein the pivot link is connected to a tensioning link that applies tension to a rear bow, the tensioning link being connected to the pivot link at a location that is disposed rearward of the location where the pivot link is connected to the right and left top stack linkages.

13. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 11 wherein the pivot link is connected by a triple pivot to a center rail and a rear rail.

14. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 13 wherein the pivot link is pivotally connected to a control link at a location that is disposed forward of the triple pivot.

15. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 11 wherein the pivot link is pivotally connected to a control link.

16. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 11 wherein the two different bows are each secured to the cover.

17. (Withdrawn) A convertible top for a vehicle having a passenger compartment, comprising:

a top stack linkage having a right side and a left side;

a cover secured to the top stack linkage and spanning between the right side and the left side to enclose the passenger compartment of the vehicle;

the right and left sides of the top stack linkage each having a main spring secured to a pivot pin that is connected to a main pivot bracket that is assembled to the vehicle, a rear rail being connected to the main pivot bracket on a lower end and to other parts of the top stack linkage on its upper end, a balance link secured to the pivot pin on its lower end and to a center link on its upper end, wherein the main spring provides a counterbalancing force on the balance link that assists in lifting the top stack linkage as the convertible top is retracted and extended.

18. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 17 wherein the main spring has a forked end that engages the balance link.

19. (Withdrawn) The convertible top of claim 7 wherein the right and left sides of the top stack linkage each further comprise a cylinder connected between the center

rail and a control link, wherein the cylinder exerts a biasing force on the control link to lift a front portion of the top stack linkage as the convertible top is retracted.

20. (Currently amended) A method of making a top stack linkage for a convertible top for a vehicle, comprising:

heating magnesium to a thixotropic state;

injecting the magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a one bow and front rail portion, wherein the front rail is formed as an integral part of the one bow;

injecting the magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a plurality of side rails;

injecting the magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a plurality of links; ~~and~~

injecting magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a plurality of end portions;

providing a plurality of central portions on each of a plurality of bows; and

assembling the integral one bow and the front rail portion, side rails and links together ~~with, and assembling two of the end portions to each of the central portions to form~~ a plurality of bows ~~to form~~ of the top stack linkage for the convertible top.

~~22~~ 21. (Currently amended) A method of making a top stack linkage for a convertible top for a vehicle, comprising:

heating magnesium to a thixotropic state;

injecting the magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a one bow and ~~all of the~~ a plurality of rails of the top stack linkage and ~~all of the~~ a plurality of links that connect the rails;

injecting the magnesium in the thixotropic state to form a plurality of end pieces for a plurality of bows that are spaced rearwardly from the one bow;

extruding a plurality of central portions of the plurality of bows;

assembling two of the plurality of end pieces to each of the plurality of central portions of the plurality of bows; and

assembling the one bow and plurality of bows to the rails and links, wherein all of the structural parts of the top stack linkage except for the central portions of the bows that

are spaced rearwardly from the one bow are formed by injecting magnesium in a thixotropic state.